

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-01  
USIA-06 SS-15 SP-02 /053 W  
-----003193 161310Z /23

R 160515Z MAR 78  
FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1404  
USDOC WASHDC  
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
USINT BAGHDAD  
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS  
AMCONSUL DHAHRAN  
USLO RIYADH  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: BTRA, BBAK, OCON, SA  
SUBJ: ARAB CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE VISIT TO U.S.: APRIL 1978

1. EMBOFFS DISCUSSED SUBJECT WITH SHEIKH SALEH TOAMI, DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE RIYADH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE. HE STATED THAT THE GROUP IS SCHEDULED TO ASSEMBLE IN AMMAN FOR THE ONWARD JOURNEY TO U.S. BUT ADVISED US THAT HE IS OPPOSED TO GROUP TRAVEL, ESPECIALLY NOW, FOR SECURITY REASONS AND IS INFORMING AMMAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIALS OF HIS OBJECTIONS.

2. TOAMI ALSO STATED THAT SEVERAL OF THE MORE RADICAL STATES' CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE SUCH AS IRAQ AND LIBYA WOULD NOT BE PARTICIPATING IN THE MISSION. HE  
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CONFIDED THAT HE WAS PLEASED AT THIS DEVELOPMENT BECAUSE THERE WOULD BE LESS LIKELIHOOD OF SHARP CONFRONTATIONS WITH AMERICAN AUDIENCES.

3. IN REPLY TO TOAMI'S REQUEST FOR ADVICE ON THE TRIP WHILE IN THE UNITED STATES, EMBASSY OFFICERS TOLD HIM THAT NO U.S. BUSINESSMAN OR AUDIENCE WOULD

TOLERATE CRITICISM OF OUR LAWS BY A FOREIGN GROUP  
AND THAT THE MISSION WOULD BE MOST BENEFICIAL FOR  
ALL CONCERNED IF THE ARAB DELEGATES PRESENTED THE  
EXCELLENT PROSPECTS FOR EXPORTS AND SERVICES TO THE  
AREA. TOAMI IS IN FULL AGREEMENT WITH THIS APPROACH.

4. TOAMI FELT THAT THE TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE WEEKS  
IN THE U.S. IS TOO LONG AND ASKED IF USDOC OR STATE  
COULD CHECK WITH C. RIDDICK LAWRENCE OF THE NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF THE U.S. ARAB CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND  
PROVIDE SOME IDEA OF THE SCHEDULE AND ITINERARY  
PLANNED FOR THE GROUP. HE FELT THAT 60 OR MORE  
MEMBERS WOULD BE TOO LARGE A GROUP TO HANDLE AND  
SUGGESTS THAT THEY BE SPLIT UP INTO GROUPS OF 10 OR 12  
AND VISIT DIFFERENT CITIES AT THE SAME TIME TO CUT DOWN  
THE LENGTH OF STAY.

5. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANYTHING THAT USDOC OR  
THE DEPARTMENT CAN FIND OUT ABOUT THE U.S. SCHEDULE  
SO THAT THE RIYADH AND JIDDA CHAMBERS CAN BE INFORMED.  
WILEY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978JIDDA02009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
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